



INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL KARATE FEDERATION

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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July 22, 2013

TO ALL ITKF NATIONAL FEDERATION MEMBERS

RE: State of California (FTB) – ITKF Suspended Status

Dear National Federation Member

In English there is a saying – “They have thrown us a Red Herring.” This folklore saying is based on the practice used in Britain where a “Red Herring” (herring turns red when smoked and has a very strong smell) was dragged across the trail of the fox to mask the scent of the fox and send the hounds involved in the fox hunt down a false trail. It became a common saying to describe any situation where “giving a false trail” was used to mask the real issues and divert attention from them. It certainly applies to the recent letter sent by Mr. Kwiecinski to all National Federations concerning the ITKF being in a suspended status with the State of California.

However, it is important to realize that the true reality of the situation is not the result of the management of the current Chairman or ITKF office. Rather, this situation was inherited from the previous Chairman, the late Sensei Nishiyama and the former ITKF administrator, Ms. Aiko Tori. Consequently, Mr. Kwiecinski in one single stroke has been able to do what neither WUKO, nor WKF have been able to accomplish through decades of effort. That is, tarnish the reputation and legacy of Sensei Nishiyama, Ms. Tori and that of the ITKF itself. And for what purpose? It appears only for the purpose of vindictive and narcissistic self-interest.

The reality of the situation is that “suspended status” is an automatic policy of the State of California when there are incorrect tax filings. It is a government policy used to create exact compliance. In the situation referred to by Mr. Kwiecinski, the suspended status relates to the tax filings from 1995 – 2002. These tax filings were made on behalf of ITKF by the accounting firm used by Sensei Nishiyama during the time period in question. As the records are quite old (nearly 20 years) it has been very difficult to reconstruct the paper trail needed. The accounting firm has stated they do not have these records.

However, this suspended status does not prevent the ITKF from operating, nor does it nullify the organization as a world-wide organization. Indeed, The State of California has cooperated with ITKF and vice-versa to try and resolve this issue as quickly as possible. It has continued to treat the organization as viable. They are fully aware of the ITKF activities. It has also assisted the ITKF in the process of application for tax exempt status. As all National Federations have read from Mr. Kwiecinski’s own lawyer’s letter **“The only exceptions to the loss of corporate privileges upon suspension are that the corporation may (1) change its name by amendment to its Articles of Incorporation and (2) apply to the Franchise Tax Board for tax exempt status.”**

It is peculiar that Mr. Kwiecinski would take this tact as he is fully aware that the ITKF has applied for Tax Exempt status.

This entire series of communications from PZKT and Mr. Kwiecinski has proven to be an education to the ITKF Board. The ITKF Board has learned that its greatest enemies lay not without, but rather



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within the organization – including its own former Board members. It is this behavior that was considered by the Board and is partially responsible for its decision to suspend the PZKT and remove its President from the Board of Directors of ITKF.

National Federation members should consider carefully what is being done to the ITKF. A number of members have suggested that perhaps this is a strategy of WKF to finally destroy ITKF. I don't know if that is the case, but I do know the behavior exhibited is both bizarre and destructive to ITKF. The ITKF should be united at this moment as it is the best possible opportunity for our organization to make the strides forward we have been attempting for many years. Earlier this year we engaged a legal team to assist us with the issues related to IOC. Later, the IOC itself voted against WKF. Yet, immediately following these events this internal destructive behavior is exhibited from a National Federation member who claims to have recently met with WKF leaders. Is this a mere coincidence?

It is for these reasons and unanswered questions that the Board of Directors has upheld its suspension of PZKT and, by extension, removal of Mr. Kwiecinski from the ITKF Board of Directors and Technical Committee. Until the suspension is lifted, there will be no official ITKF activity within the country of Poland.

At the very least, Mr. Kwiecinski owes an apology to the ITKF family for his rash behaviour and unsupported accusations that have caused great embarrassment to the memory of Sensei Nishiyama, his family and the National Federation members who believe in building, not destroying, the ITKF legacy.

Sincerely,

Richard Jorgensen, Chairman
International Traditional Karate Federation